

## PACKERS AGAIN ASK "IMMUNITY BATH" AS FIRST WITNESS TELLS OF POOL OF INTERESTS

The first witness took the stand in the trial of the millionaire packers today.

He was Albert H. Veeder, in whose offices the government claims the packers met to "fix prices," and who is generally believed to have been the brains behind the beef trust.

But Veeder was not permitted to take the stand until the defense had made a last attempt to stop the trial, by dragging into it Federal Judge Humphrey's famous "immunity bath" decision.

Attorney John S. Miller, chief counsel for the defense, and the original little securer of immunity baths, did the dragging.

When court convened, Miller rose to object to all evidence offered by the government concerning the business of the packers prior to 1905.

Were this objection sustained it would exclude all the evidence in the hands of the government tending toward proving the motive behind the formation of the National Packing company—that motive being the monopoly of the beef packing industry.

Miller asked specific immunity for Edward Tilson, Francis A. Fowler and Lewis H. Heyman, on the ground that they had furnished information concerning their business to Commissioner of Corporations James R. Garfield.

This was the ground on which Judge Humphrey so kindly gave the packers immunity.

Judge Carpenter said he failed

to see wherein the defense was raising any point that he already had not ruled upon.

(To the ordinary layman it would seem as if this particular point had only been ruled upon about every time the case came into court.)

The defense was persistent. The government attorneys asked for more specific information as to just what evidence the defense was objecting to. There was a deal of wrangling, and then Judge Carpenter announced that he would permit the introduction of testimony regarding acts of the packers prior to 1905 with the understanding that the attorneys were to submit their arguments when the state's case is concluded.

That means, that after the arguments, Judge Carpenter will hear a motion to strike this testimony from the record.

With this stipulation agreed upon, Veeder began his testimony, while the defense objected to each question and answer concerning acts prior to 1905.

Veeder traced the transformation of the Swift partnership into the Swift corporation and told of the organization of the National Packing company, of which he said he was for a time the general counsel and treasurer, as well as director.

Veeder divided the credit of the organization of the National Packing company with Louis Krauthoff, then personal attor-